EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

The best performers have a green team to set targets, monitor progress and spread awareness and good practice across the lodge or resort. Pictured here, Green team at Evolve Back Coorg.

Providing bins in grounds to avoid litter is good practice. The Golden Tusk pictured here provides separate bins in its grounds for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

Tigergarh Wildlife Resort has created a wall of used beer bottles in the dining hall to raise awareness of the need to recycle as part of its positive waste management practices. Read case study.

A range of lodges encourage guests to recycle through guest literature – pictured here a briefing for the colour coded bins in bedrooms at Svasara Jungle Lodge. Read case study.

 Guests at Dhole’s Den are encouraged to recycle and take waste home. 100% of waste is segregated and appropriate materials composted or sold for scrap.

The Golden Tusk uses notices to encourage guests to avoid food waste.

WASTE SEGREGATION

Evolve Back Kabini uses colour coding to segregate kitchen waste into six different streams: paper, plastic, food waste, metal tins/cans, silver foil, metal waste. Read case study.

Spice Village, Thekkady segregates its dry recyclable waste into five different streams – paper, plastic, glass, tin and ceramics. Read case study.

Waste at Banjaar Tola – Taj Safaris is segregated into wet and dry waste with four bins in use in the kitchen (wet waste, paper, plastic and tin). Dry non-biodegradable waste is stored separately and removed periodically by a local scrap merchant. An information board on hazardous waste is placed at the lodge entrance.
Svasara Jungle Lodge asks its guests to segregate waste into three streams with colour coded bins in guest rooms for food waste, recyclable waste and non-recyclable waste.

Evolve Back Kabini has a four-tier housekeeping waste segregation system.

The Fern Gir Forest Resort segregates its kitchen waste into clearly labelled bins for recyclable and non-recyclable waste. Read case study.

Dry waste segregation at Treehouse Hideaway.

Spice Village, Thekkady has bins to segregate rubbish in its grounds.

Bandhav Vilas uses colour coded rubbish bins in its grounds.

GOING PLASTIC FREE

Reverse osmosis is used by many lodges to clean water and reduce or replace plastic bottles. Pictured here, drinking water station filled with RO treated water and refillable metal bottles provided to all guests at Pugdundee Safari Lodges. 100,000 plastic bottles have been saved over four seasons. Read case study.

Evolve Back Kabini provides reverse osmosis filtered water in every guest room and recycled glass bottles of water on departure.

An award-winning in-house bottling plant at Spice Village Thekkady is saving approx. 36,000 plastic bottles a year.

Tigergarh Wildlife Resort buys in bulk to cut down on plastic and packaging using refillable decanters for 100% organic and biodegradable soaps in their bathrooms. Cling film is no longer used. Reverse osmosis filtered water is provided in guest rooms to avoid the use of plastic bottles.

Jaagir Lodge is almost plastic free and uses metal sippers, stainless steel bottles for water, wooden toothbrushes and combs, glass storage jars for tea and coffee kits and reusable boxes for tiffin and breakfast for safaris and bottles for liquid.

Pugdundee Safaris lodges organise plastic free safaris using steel bottles and plant based food containers, part of their broader single use plastic free strategy.
Plastic free toothbrushes and cotton buds are used by a range of lodges to cut back on plastic, pictured here at Pugdundee Safaris Lodges...

A range of lodges use refillable ceramic toiletry bottles instead of plastic. Jim’s Jungle Retreat, pictured here makes its own soaps on site and wraps them in leaves, part of its policy to become single plastic use free.

Traditional Bauhinia leaf plates used by Kipling Camp for their annual Forest Creation workshops.

A taste of traditional food served in traditional, food wrap at Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge.

**FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE**

Composting is good practice for disposing of appropriate vegetable, fruit and garden waste – and adds fertility to the soil. Pictured here composting at Evolve Back Kabin. They also have a piggery and a biogas unit (see below).

Vegetable and fruit waste is composted with leaves at Forsyth Lodge for use in their organic kitchen garden. The area is fenced to keep out wild boar. Leaf litter is also used as a top layer for the garden to help retain moisture and to leach nutrients into the soil.

Composting at Fern Gir Forest Resort.

Covered compost at Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge to keep out pests.

Vermicomposting at Tiger’s Den Resort uses worms to turn biodegradable waste into a rich manure.

Spice Village, Thekkady harnesses the power of vermicomposting using worms to transform an average of 100-150 kg food waste each day into rich compost for their organic garden and the land.
Jaagir Lodge in Dudwa has installed a Foodie Model F-25 composter. This micro-organism based 24-hour machine has a daily waste processing capacity of 25 kg breaking down organic waste into compost with a volume reduction of 85-90%. The system processes all types of organic waste such as curry, roti, bread, eggshells, chicken, fish and mutton bones, fruit peels and garden waste etc for re-use as fertiliser in the grounds.

Sasan Gir has a weighing area for wet waste for composting and to monitor its performance and help reduce waste.

Sasan Gir uses a Bioneer composter which processes their kitchen and garden waste. The machine can process up to 100 kg of waste a day and takes 24 hours to process. The compost is used as soil enriching fertiliser in their grounds which include a large kitchen garden.

Aahana The Corbett Wilderness combines biogas and composting to dispose of all its biodegradable waste. The gas generated is used in the staff cafeteria while the residual waste is used to speed up composting. Compost is used for its extensive kitchen garden.

A biogas unit at Evolve Back Kabini is used alongside composting and piggery for disposing of food waste helping to power cooking.

Khem Villas uses manure from its on-site dairy and food waste to power the biogas unit at Khem Villas providing a source of energy for cooking.

Vermicomposting using worm power at Kipling Camp.

Natural food recyclers - a range of lodges recycle appropriate food waste to local farmers. Pigs are a more carbon efficient method of disposing of biodegradable waste than composting.

Charcoal briquettes are made from lantana, an invasive weed, a local enterprise training initiative by the Singinawa Foundation and Kanha Lodge Association.
Evolve Back Kabini offer daily paper bag making classes turning waste into an opportunity to engage guests and share their expertise.

Spice Village, Thekkady transforms newspapers and magazines into guest stationery, leaf letters and manuals at the resort’s paper making centre which produces 200 handmade papers a day. Guests can participate in papermaking.

Tigergarh Wildlife Resort’s NGO, CATS Foundation is training local women to make mats out of recycled sarees and bags out of old clothes. The resort uses old tyres as planters as part of its work to recycle, recover and re-use.

A range of lodges have used recycled wood and building materials for furniture and construction. Pictured here furniture made from recycled wood and railway sleepers at Kanha Earth Lodge.

The Teak House at Svasara Lodge used recycled teak and white Allahabad roof tiles from old dismantled buildings in its construction.

Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge has used recycled tiles as rustic lampshades.

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RECOVERING AND RE-USING

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CLEAN UP DRIVES

Clean-up drive in the surrounding area at Evolve Back, Kabini, one of many lodges helping to reduce rubbish in the local environment.

Lodge staff at Singinawa Jungle Lodge take part in clean-up drives especially along the Tannaar and Banjar river flows to prevent plastic and litter entering waterways.

Students at Fateh Public School, a school in Ranthambhore funded by Khem Villas’ Foundation, are educated about the impact of litter and the need to avoid it. Pictured here, students litter clearing in the park. Photo: Padmini Singh

Kipling Camp has spearheaded a Kanha waste management committee in the Mocha-Khatia area and has distributed green dustbins made of used metal oil tins around Khatia village for rubbish collection.

Waterwoods Lodge & Resorts coordinated a team of 90 volunteers in 2019 for a three day local clean up collecting three tons of trash from the banks of the Kabini. The 2018 clean-up collected 3.2 tons of river trash and old fishing nets with the help of 50 volunteers from surrounding resorts.

Nature walk and clean up in the forest with local children organised by Pashan Garh – Taj Safaris.
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Spice Village, Thekkady, Periyar
An Imaginative Approach to the 5 Rs and Harnessing Worm Power

Spice Village takes an imaginative and proactive approach to the 5 Rs – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover. With a pioneering approach to reusing old materials, pine packing cases sourced from the nearest port 25 years ago were artfully remade into furniture. Excess upholstery material is made into shopping bags. Two bags per household have been distributed to 550 local families and promoted in food and beverage outlets to cut down on local plastic waste.

An award-winning on-site bottling plant using water treated by micro filters, reverse osmosis and biodynamisation and reusable glass bottles is saving 36,000 plastic water bottles each year. A Local Area Network for inter-office communication is in place to reduce printing and paper wastage.

Litter bins in the grounds are designed to segregate waste and keep grounds litter free. Waste sorting facilities segregate non-biodegradable waste into paper, plastic, glass, tin and ceramics. Newspapers and magazines are transformed into guest stationery, leaf letters and manuals at the resort’s paper making centre which produces 200 handmade papers a day. Waste pineapple crowns are used as a tenacity enhancing agent which increases the binding quality.

Other waste streams are sold as scrap to an authorised scrap merchant. Plastics are recycled for use as non-food plastics. Glass, tin, china and glass are sold to bulk purchasers in the industry.

Turning paper waste into an opportunity for guests.

Guest stationery and literature using paper made on site.

Reusable glass bottles filled on site at the resort’s bottling plant.

Waste segregation at the resort.
A biogas plant at the property converts biodegradable waste into methane used for cooking. The remaining slurry diluted with water (1:20 ratio) provides fertiliser for the vegetable garden.

Vermi-composting with the Esinia species of earthworm purchased from a local NGO is also used to convert cooked food waste, meat trimmings and fresh vegetable cuttings into a rich fertiliser for the property’s two-acre vegetable and herb gardens in a 45-day process. Two people are employed for the system’s upkeep which processes an average of 100-150 kg of food waste each day. Waste is spread out in tanks, 78 in total each holding 20 kg, and covered with a mixture of cow dung and dry leaves. Once the tanks are 75% full, the food waste is left to bio-compost for five days and 5-10 kg of earthworm culture is added to each tank topped off with a moist jute bag spread on the surface to multiply the worms. Compost harvesting starts from day twenty delivering an amazingly rich fertiliser thanks to worm power.

Thriving certified organic vegetable garden fertilised with rich compost from recycled kitchen waste.
Evolve Back Kabini, Nagarhole
Creative Guest Recycling Workshops and Cutting Down on Waste

Daily paper bag making classes are just one of the initiatives Evolve Back is taking to cut down on waste turning it into an opportunity to engage guests and share its expertise. The bags used at the resort are part of their No to Plastic approach.

A reverse osmosis installation is provided in every room for safe drinking water and new and recycled glass bottles are used instead of plastic. Refillable ceramic shampoo, conditioner and moisturiser bottles cut down on plastic waste.
Waste is measured on a monthly basis. A rigorous system is used for recycling waste using colour coded four partition handbags in housekeeping.

Kitchen waste is segregated into paper (yellow), plastic (blue), food waste (green), metal tin/cans (red), silver (silver foil) and meat waste (white).

Food waste is disposed of through composting, a piggery and a biogas unit which helps to power cooking.

Good practice is spread to surrounding villages with clean up drives to remove plastic and other waste.
Pugdundee Safaris
Saying No to Plastic

Kings Lodge, Bandhavgarh
Pench Tree Lodge, Pench
Denwa Backwater Escape, Satpura

Tree House Hideaway, Bandhavgarh
Ken River Lodge, Panna
Kanha Earth Lodge, Kanha

Pugdundee has adopted a 100% single-use plastic-free policy across its six lodges and runs an anti-plastic campaign to encourage the local community and suppliers not to use plastic. 100,000 plastic bottles have been saved over four seasons by replacing them with reusable steel bottles given to guests on arrival with water stations on hand for refilling with filtered water served in restaurants. Water is purified using reverse osmosis. This initiative has been extended into the community with over 200 steel bottles donated to school children in 2017 around Bandhavgarh combined with education about the environment and plastic waste.

Water refill stations are complemented by reusable steel flasks.

Refillable glass-made dispensers for guest toiletries supply organic, non-polluting products. Bamboo toothbrushes and cotton buds have replaced plastic varieties. Bags are made from recycled newspaper. Picnic meals are plastic free using bamboo cutlery and plant-based food packaging. Tetra packs have been replaced with sippers containing fresh lemonade or iced tea.

Refillable glass toiletry bottles.

Plastic free picnicking.

Plant based food containers.

Bamboo cutlery.

Tetra packs out; sippers with freshly made drinks in.

Bamboo cotton buds and toothbrushes.

Glass containers for guest coffee, tea and sugar.

No to plastic bags.
The no to plastic initiative is part of Pugdundee’s broader waste management programme. Their Farm to Table approach utilises their own fresh home grown produce and local food instead of relying on exotic or tinned produce – beneficial for health and the local economy. Tetrapaks have been completely done away with. Kitchen waste is segregated into dry and wet waste, with separate bins provided in guest rooms for the same. Non-biodegradable waste (plastic, paper, glass, tin etc) is segregated and collected weekly by a local scrap merchant (kabadiwala). Appropriate kitchen and garden waste is composted. Workshops are held for staff on the importance of the five Rs – refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover.

Lodge construction has utilised recycled timber alongside timber sourced from government approved forestry sources. Furniture is made from recycled wood and railway sleepers.

Segregation of dry waste at Treehouse Hideaway.

Leaf composting at Kanha Earth Lodge.

Furniture made from waste wood and recycled railway sleepers at Kanha Earth Lodge.

Anti-plastic campaign at King’s Lodge distributing steel water bottles to local schoolchildren.
Tigergarh Wildlife Resort, Bandhavgarh
Refusing, Reducing, Recycling, Recovering and Reusing in Action

A wall of used beer bottles in the dining hall, symbolises Tigergarh Wildlife Resort’s commitment to cutting down and recycling waste. The resort uses green dustbins for wet organic waste and blue for dry. Backstage, dry waste is segregated further; plastic, glass, rubber, metals and electronic waste are sent to Umaria’s scrap dealer on a monthly basis.

Biodegradable kitchen waste is composted mixed with an equal amount of leaf and garden waste and some cow-dung for good measure to enhance nutrient quality. Helped along with a weekly turn of a shovel, the compost is ready in 12-14 weeks for fertilising the garden. Non compostable kitchen waste is given to locals with piggeries for efficient disposal.

The resort has stopped using materials such as cling film and aluminium foil to reduce waste further. Reverse osmosis treated drinking water and refillable containers for organic, biodegradable, herbal toiletries are used in guest rooms to cut down on plastic packaging.

Furniture has made good use of recycled wood. Old tyres have found a use as planters for flowers. The owner’s NGO, CAT Foundation (Conservation, Art and Training) has created new self-employment opportunities for local women through workshops teaching local women how to make bags from old clothes and rugs from reused saris. The foundation is also sharing its knowledge on composting and animal husbandry to improve soil fertility and reduce pesticide use with local farmers.

Making bags and rugs from recycled clothes and saris.

Planter made from reused tyre  Furniture from recycled wood.

Bulk buying and refillable containers to cut down on waste.
Svasara Jungle Lodge, Tadoba  
Segregating Waste and Saying Goodbye to Plastic

Svasara Jungle Lodge encourages its guests to segregate waste into three streams – food, recyclable and non-recyclable – through briefing and colour coded bins.

Reusuable thermoses for water

To cut down on plastic waste, thermoses with safe drinking water purified by reserve osmosis are provided in all guest rooms and on safari. Water in plastic bottles is sold at a premium to discourage use.

Replacing 30ml plastic toiletry bottles with refillable table-top and wall-mounted dispensers for toiletries is a second initiative which has cut down plastic waste dramatically.

The lodge also actively seeks out eco-friendly alternatives elsewhere and uses:

- Bamboo cocktail stirrers
- Steel cutlery instead of plastic for picnics
- Bamboo baskets for laundry
- Paper drinking straws instead of plastic

Kitchen waste segregation.
The Fern Gir Forest Resort, Gir
Segregating Waste and Creative Plastic Bottle Reuse

An active programme of staff training and guest briefing is part of The Fern Gir Forest Resort’s proactive approach to managing waste and recycling.

Separate dustbins are provided in guest rooms, sitting, dining and parking areas to segregate wet and dry waste. Non-biodegradable waste is further segregated (plastics, paper, glass and tins etc) and collected by a local kabadiwala (scrap merchant).

Kitchen waste is segregated and measured on a daily basis. Food quantities are adjusted according to the number of guests. Appropriate food waste is given to villagers as cattle feed and composted.

The resort has made a Christmas tree and several planters using plastic bottles. Recycled paper is turned into handicrafts. Lodge staff help to keep the surrounding area clean.
TOFTigers is a global business-to-business nature travel charity with a mission to improve the ecological and economic sustainability of wildlands and wildlife across Asia. Well-planned and well-managed responsible tourism is a force for good bringing economic benefits to rural areas, restoring habitat, supporting conservation and local communities, changing poachers into protectors and giving visitors inspiring experiences of nature. We work with the travel trade, destinations, accommodation providers, governmental and conservation organisations to make this happen through training, advocacy, certification, promoting best practice and partnership working.

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Correct at time of press. Information included may not be appropriate to every situation, destination and country and is intended for general guidance only and may be subject to change.

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